4. The Commission shall consist of a full time Chairperson and four full-time Members, who are yet to be appointed. No time limit can be fixed as to by when the Commission will be fully constituted. It is envisaged that the Commission will complete its work and submit its report with recommendations with two years.

Shortage of power

*10. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of power in the country and Government have failed to achieve the target of supplying adequate power to various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof reasons therefore; and

(c) whether Government are considering strengthening the NTPC for generation of more power in various parts of the country and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):(a) and (b) There is an overall shortage of power in the country presently. The shortage varies from State to State and time to time. The average electrical energy shortage in the country during the period April—October, 2005 was 7.3% and peak shortage was 9.1%.

Electricity is a concurrent subject. The supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/State Power Utility. The Central Government supplements the efforts of State Government by way of generation capacity addition and establishment of bulk transmission system in the Central Sector through Central Public Sector Undertakings.

The main reasons for shortage of power are growth in demand outstripping the growth in generation capacity addition, shortage of peaking power, low plant load factor of some of the thermal generating units, mostly in the State Sector, high transmission & distribution losses, shortage of gas and coal, backing down of thermal generating units due to better water inflows, prolonged forced outages of old plants, poor financial position of most of the State Power utilities rendering it difficult for them to raise the

resources necessary for making required investments to create adequate generation, transmission and distribution system, etc.

(c) Enchanced delegation of powers (Navaratna Powers) were accorded by Government of India to NTPC in July, 1997. As per Navaratna Powers, NTPC Board is empowered to *inter-alia* approve investment in its new/ expansion projects without any monetary ceiling. Capacity addition of 9160 MW thermal capacity is envisaged to be added by NTPC during 10th plan.

Recovery of Shells In Garhmukteshwar

*11. SHRI R.K.ANAND: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shells had been recovered from the Ganga at Garhmukteshwar; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that a magisterial probe was ordered into the Bhushan Steel Blast Case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) 182 spent bomb shells were recovered from the river bed Ganga, Garhmukteshwar, on June 3,2005.

(b) Yes, Sir.

World Bank Assistance for Bharat Nirman Scheme

*12. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the World Bank has been approached for assistance to part-finance the Bharat Nirman project aimed at scaling up the rural infrastructure in irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, rural electrification, rural connectivity etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals made and commitments received, if any, from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the information received from the Department of Economic Affairs, the details in respect of World